

DVCC  
Immigration Committee  
May 5, 2015  
DSP Museum

- I. The meeting was called to order and Introductions were made. Present at the meeting were Amy Day (Meet Me at the Well Foundation), Neda Biggs (Committee Chair), Natasha Smith (DVCC), Adrienne Owen (DSP), Carmen Mendez (Wilmington PD), Nadia Begum (UD) and Aimee String (DVCC).
- II. Old Business
  - a. Resource Guide
    - i. The Committee discussed distribution of the resource guide. Neda suggested that we ask the DVTF and VRTF if we could briefly discuss the resource guide at those meetings. Aimee agreed to reach out to those groups. The group also discussed reaching out to the Faith Based Community through various churches throughout the State. Some of the churches mentioned were: Holy Angels, St. Catherine's and St. Paul's. The group also mentioned reaching out to Catholic Charities in Kent and Sussex Counties and making the document available at public libraries
    - ii. Carmen mentioned that it would be great if we could make this available in Spanish as well, particularly the resource list.
  - b. Vera Institute Trafficking Tool
    - i. The Committee reviewed the Vera Institute trafficking tool. The tool is primarily for victim service agency staff and other social service providers, who will administer the Trafficking Victim Identification Tool (TVIT) to clients who are potential trafficking victims. It is based on results of research conducted by the Vera Institute of Justice, which collaborated with leading legal and victim services agencies in the United States, to produce the validated screening tool and best practices for identifying trafficked persons, and on other expert sources in government and non-governmental agencies. Vera's research found that the TVIT instrument is highly reliable in predicting both labor and sex trafficking in women and men and among foreign- and U.S. born victims. The screening tool can be used in its short version (consisting of 16 core questions, plus questions specific to migration for the foreign-born) without loss of predictive ability, or in its longer form, depending upon the situation and purpose of screening.
    - ii. The committee agreed that there is a lot of useful information in the Tool and accompanying manual and it is a great companion to the Immigration Guide. There was some concern expressed about the length of the tool and the skill set of those that would potentially use it. Adrienne expressed a concern about how it would be used. We would not want the tool to be used for criminal prosecutions. It was agreed that it was a great tool to advise and inform people about human trafficking.

- iii. Aimee will do some research and try to find out how other states are using the tool. We will keep this on the agenda to discuss at our next meeting.

### III. New Business

- a. Guest presenter
  - i. Nadia Begum a graduate student from the University of Delaware presented information focusing on working with Muslim Women and Immigrants. She would like to put together and distribute a pamphlet on the topic and is interested in getting feedback. The committee agreed that this would be a valuable resource and would be interested in helping to distribute the resource.
  - ii. She spoke about some of unique barriers that Muslim victims face including the fact that religious clause are often misinterpreted to allow DV.
  - iii. The committee is looking forward to working with Nadia in the future.
- b. Spanish DV Forum
  - i. There has been talk of the DVCC over seeing the DV Forum and doing one in Sussex County that would be specifically geared toward the Hispanic population. Carmen gave a brief overview of past forums. There was a forum held in NCC in the past that was focused on the Hispanic population. It was very well attended. The Committee agreed that this would be great to bring to Sussex County. The committee mentioned several agencies that they would like to see brought to the table on the Forum including: Legal Aid, La Red, Latin Immigration Victim's Center, Abriendo Puertas, Turning Point, La Esperanza and local churches.
- c. DACA
  - i. Neda mentioned Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) the president's executive action which allows young people brought into the United States illegally as children to apply for deportation deferrals and work permits. There are concerns about how ICE will handle discretionary guidelines for who would be removed if not for this executive action. It is currently stalled in the courts. This is something we need to keep our eyes on as it effect 4.4 million people

### IV. Agency Reports

- a. La Esperanza
  - i. Neda is no longer with La Esperanza. She is now working independently
  - ii. Claudia Pena Poretti has also left the agency
- b. Abriendo Puertas
  - i. Abriendo is now offering a Spanish DV Support Group. You can call the hotline for more information.
- c. Meet Me At the Well Foundation
  - i. The agency is hoping to have a recovery home for trafficking victims. The 501c3 status is currently pending and they are in the process of working on policies and regulations. The recovery home will initially be for victims 18 and over. The home would shelter individuals statewide and in surrounding areas.
  - ii. For more information please contact Amy Day ([amy.thewellde@gmail.com](mailto:amy.thewellde@gmail.com), 302-743-7765, [www.thewellde.org](http://www.thewellde.org)).
- d. DVCC
  - i. The next quarterly meeting will take place at Buena Vista on May 11 at 1:30 PM.

V. Next Meeting:

- a. The next meeting is scheduled for September 8<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 AM at the Delaware State Police Museum in Dover, DE.